AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of managing distributed statistical data retrieval in a network device, comprising:

sending a first current statistical data sample from a first card to a central process within the network device periodically at a first period;

sending a first data summary from the first card to the central process periodically at a second period;

detecting a predetermined condition;

sending the first data summary from the first card to the central process periodically at the first period; and

ceasing to send the first current statistical data sample from the first card to the central process periodically at the first period.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending a second current statistical data sample from a second card to the central process within the network device periodically at the first period;

sending a second data summary from the second card to the central process periodically at the second period;

detecting the predetermined condition;

sending the second data summary from the second card to the central process periodically at the first period; and

ceasing to send the second current statistical data sample from the second card to the central process periodically at the first period.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

sending a second current statistical data sample from the first card to the central process within the network device periodically at the first period;

sending a second data summary from the first card to the central process periodically at the second period;

detecting the predetermined condition;

sending the second data summary from the first card to the central process periodically at the first period; and

ceasing to send the second current statistical data sample from the first card to the central process periodically at the first period.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

gathering the first current statistical data sample on the first card periodically at the first period; and

adding the first current statistical data sample to the first data summary each time the first current statistical data sample is gathered.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

gathering the second current statistical data sample on the second card periodically at the first period; and

adding the second current statistical data sample to the second data summary each time the second current statistical data sample is gathered.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

gathering the second current statistical data sample on the first card periodically at the first period; and

adding the second current statistical data sample to the second data summary each time the second current statistical data sample is gathered.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

clearing the first data summary periodically at a third period.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the third period comprises twenty-four hours.

9. (Original) The method of claims 2 or 3, further comprising:

clearing the second data summary periodically at a third period.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the third period comprises twenty-four hours.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the second period is longer than the first period.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined condition comprises a condition during which data sent to the central process cannot be exported out of the network device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a predetermined condition comprises:

receiving a notice at the first card from the central process that data cannot be exported from the network device.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the first current statistical data sample from the first card at the central process;
storing the received first current statistical data sample in a file in non-volatile memory;
retrieving the file from the non-volatile memory through an export process; and
sending the file from the network device to an external file system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the export process is a file transfer protocol (FTP) client process and wherein sending the file from the network device to an external file system comprises:

issuing an FTP push.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein detecting a predetermined condition comprises:

detecting a condition where the export process cannot send the file from the network device to the external file system.

17. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving the first current statistical data sample from the first card at the central process;

storing the received first current statistical data sample in a first file in non-volatile memory, wherein the first file corresponds to a first string name associated with the first current statistical data sample;

receiving the second current statistical data sample from the second card at the central process;

comparing a second string name associated with the second current statistical data sample with the first string name;

storing the received second current statistical data sample in the first file if the second string name matches the first string name; and

storing the received second current statistical data sample in a second file if the second string name does not match the first string name.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

retrieving the first file from the non-volatile memory through an export process;

sending the first file from the network device to an external file system; and wherein detecting a predetermined condition comprises:

detecting a condition where the export process cannot send the first file from the network device to the external file system.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

retrieving the second file from the non-volatile memory through the export process;

sending the second file from the network device to the external file system; and wherein detecting a predetermined condition comprises:

detecting the condition where the export process cannot send the second file from the network device to the external file system.

20. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving the first current statistical data sample from the first card at the central process;

storing the received first current statistical data sample in a first file in non-volatile memory, wherein the first file corresponds to a first string name associated with the first current statistical data sample;

receiving the second current statistical data sample from the first card at the central process;

comparing a second string name associated with the second current statistical data sample with the first string name;

storing the received second current statistical data sample in the first file if the second string name matches the first string name; and

storing the received second current statistical data sample in a second file if the second string name does not match the first string name.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

retrieving the first file from the non-volatile memory through an export process; and

sending the first file from the network device to an external file system; and wherein detecting a predetermined condition comprises:

detecting a condition where the export process cannot send the first file from the network device to the external file system.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

retrieving the second file from the non-volatile memory through the export process;

sending the second file from the network device to the external file system; and wherein detecting a predetermined condition comprises:

detecting the condition where the export process cannot send the second file from the network device to the external file system.

23. (Original) A method of managing distributed statistical data retrieval in a network device, comprising:

sending current statistical data samples from each of a plurality of cards to a central process within the network device periodically at a first period;

sending data summaries from each of the cards to the central process periodically at a second period;

detecting a predetermined condition;

sending the data summaries from each of the cards to the central process periodically at the first period; and

ceasing to send the current statistical data samples from each of the cards to the central process periodically at the first period.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein current statistical data samples may be sent by a plurality of processes executing on each of the plurality of cards.

25. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

gathering the current statistical data samples on the cards periodically at the first period; and

adding the current statistical data samples to the data summaries on each card each time the current statistical data samples are gathered and in accordance with assigned string names.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

clearing the data summaries periodically at a third period.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the third period comprises twenty-four hours.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the second period is longer than the first period.

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the predetermined condition comprises a condition during which data sent to the central process cannot be exported out of the network device.

30. (Original) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

receiving each of the current statistical data samples from the cards at the central process;

storing each of the received current statistical data samples in files in non-volatile memory in accordance with string names associated with each of the current statistical data samples;

retrieving the files from the non-volatile memory through an export process; and

sending the files from the network device to an external file system.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein detecting a predetermined condition comprises:

detecting a condition where the export process cannot send the files from the network device to the external file system.

32. (New) A method of managing distributed statistical data retrieval in a network device, comprising:

periodically sending current statistical data generated by a process executing on a card of the network device to a central process within the network device at a first transmission rate,

periodically sending data summary corresponding to said current statistical data to the central process at a second transmission rate lower than said first transmission rate,

terminating transmission of said current statistical data upon detection of a predetermined condition, and

transmitting said data summary at said first transmission rate while said condition persists.